

With regard to the inorganic part, or mineral portion of stable manure, it is evident from its origin that it must be composed of all the various constituents requisite to the development of vegetable life, and to contain them in a quantitative proportion best adapted to meet the wants of the growing crop. This state of things, though sufficient in itself to justify the most favorable expectations, gives nevertheless, no full exposition of all the virtues of this valuable part in stable manure. There are besides, two other instances to be mentioned which add materially to its efficiency as a fertilizer, and secure to it its acknowledged superiority over all other mineral compounds that have been brought in competition with it. The one relates to the particular form, the other to the state of association in which the mineral part exists in the great mass of stable manure; both acting most powerfully in promoting its assimilation by the plants. For being, as to the first instance, only a small integrant part of the whole voluminous mass of the manure, it must necessarily exist there in a state of indefinite fineness and subdivision, and therefore, most liable to yield to the action of solvents. And if we ask what solvent should probably most powerfully act on the constituents of the mineral portion of stable manure, we must, according to the results of practical experiment, answer in favor of water impregnated with carbonic acid, the very substance which is furnished by the second instance, that is, in consequence of the intimate connection of the mineral matters with the organic part of stable manure.

The humus, as we know, provides during the whole course of its decay, for a regular source of gaseous carbonic acid, which, in the moment of its being evolved from it, is most liable to become incorporated with the water contained in the soil, and thereby to impart to it the power of dissolving freely the earthy substances of which the mineral portion of the manure is composed.

These conditions demonstrate at once the highly fertilizing properties of the mineral portion which, in its connection with the organic part, in the form of stable or barn-yard manure, must really offer the most natural and efficient means for restoring fertility to soil. No temptation, however ingeniously displayed, should induce the farmer to lessen his appreciation of this valuable fertilizer. He should aid, improve and increase it by all means, but never neglect or distrust it, for it is his nearest and best friend on whom he can call in his hour of need, and who will give him not grudgingly increased crops, and impart increased fertility to his